



# THE TOKEN HUNTER

A Publication of the

*National Utah Token Society*

Vol. 9, No. 7  
July 1990



Dedicated to Collecting, Recording, and Preserving Medals and Tokens

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## Next Meeting

### JULY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## ★ Club Events ★

July 21: BLACKS FORK, UT  
July 26: ORRIN MILLER  
August 11: BULLIONVILLE, UT  
August 23: CLUB PICNIC

JULY'S MEETING IS THE 26th AT 7:15p.m., AT THE REDWOOD MULTIPURPOSE CENTER, 3100 SOUTH REDWOOD ROAD, SLC, UT.

## ★ PRIZES ★

Cliff's Bar, Geraldine, Montana, GF 5¢ in trade  
Cliff's Bar, Geraldine, Montana, GF 25¢ in trade  
Independent Coal & Coke Co., Kenilworth, UT, GF 1 Electric Exploder  
Independent Coal & Coke Co., Kenilworth, UT, GF 5 Sticks of Powder  
Kizer & Brandt, Milford, UT, GF 1 Drink or Cigar  
Clifton's Market, Hurricane, UT, GF 5¢ in Trade  
Delta Milling Co., Delta, UT, GF 5lbs of Wheat  
1945 2½ Gold Peso

DOOR PRIZE: Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Co. GF 1 Local Switch

## TOKEN HUNTER NOTES:

I appreciate the articles that has been submitted. I want to apologize to Bryan for spelling his last name wrong last month. These fingers just don't type the way they used to, sorry. Harry Campbell sent an article for this month's newsletter, Thanks, Harry.

The Token Hunter is being published a week early again this month so you will all have the map and article prior to July's outing to Blacks Fork on the 21st of July.

Remember, the more times you make the Club meetings, the more tickets you will have at the Christmas Dinner.

Thanks to Bill Hutson and Lyle Lamm for the Kenilworth Tokens and to Bill Turpela for the Montana Tokens donated to the Club for the drawings.

We'd like to welcome our newest members Joe & Sarah Lewis from Salt Lake City, UT.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Coin and Token Show was a big success thanks to the efforts of Bob Campell, George Wilson and all of the NUTS members who helped at the hospitality table, setting up and taking down, and those who put exhibits together. The "Best of Show" and "Peoples Choice" awards for the best exhibits went to Norm Johnson for his exhibit "Pioneer Jubilee". A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who worked on the Coin and Token Show.

The speaker for this month's meeting will be Mr. Orrin Miller, Tooele County Historian. Orrin is a member of the Son's of the Utah Pioneers.

Next month is our annual picnic which will be held at Fairmont Park (2250 South 900 East). Eric Jameson will be in charge of the picnic. The club usually furnishes the charcoal and drinks (punch). More from Eric at the meeting.

This month's trip is to Blacks Fork on the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains. Joyce and I rode up to Blacks Fork to check out the area on the 6th of July. The cabins at the commissary are still standing for the most part, but some of the roofs have caved in. After we checked out the commissary, we camped overnight and then drove over towards China Meadows. We saw several cabins along the North Slope Road. It was really nice to be up in the mountains where the cooler temperatures are.

See you soon.

BYRON



# NUTS CLUB TRIPS

Fellow N.U.T.S.:

Get out your calendars and your marking pens, because we have got some GREAT token hunting trips planned for this summer. Besides the regular monthly trips, many of us will be going out every week-end. Try and attend these trips, they are a lot of fun. Hope to see you.

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							
8	9	10	11	12	13	14														
15	16	17	18	19	20	21														
22	23	24	25	26	27	28														
29	30	31																		
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3								
7	8	9	10	11	12	13														
14	15	16	17	18	19	20														
21	22	23	24	25	26	27														
28	29	30	31																	

JULY 21

Blacks Fork, UT

Byron

AUGUST 11

Bullionville, UT  
(Marysville, UT)

Ted

SEP 1-3 (Sat-Mon)

Treasure Hill, NV

Eric

OCT 6-7 (Sat-Sun)

Tintic Mining District  
Eureka

Greg



THIS IS THE DESIGN FOR  
THE 1990 CLUB MEDAL.  
IT WAS DESIGNED BY  
BILL TURPELA.

MEET AT THE REDWOOD MULTIPURPOSE CENTER ON REDWOOD ROAD AT 8:30a.m.  
ON THR 21st OF JULY IF ANYONE WANTS TO TRAVEL IN A CARAVAN.

### BLACKS FORK COMMISSARY

The Blacks Fork Commissary is a log cabin village located on the Blacks Fork River along the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains. According to "Utah Ghost Towns" by Stephen L. Carr, one source claims that it was a small army waystation for supplying food, pack animals and repairing wagons and equipment for soldiers operating on patrol between Ft. Duchesne and Ft. Bridger.

The more likely origin according to Mr. Carr, is that the village was built by a timber company providing ties for the railroad, fuel for charcoal ovens, mine supports and building lumber. It's estimated that Blacks Fork Commissary was operated as far back as the 1870's and that the population ranged from 50 to 100 or more.

Access to Blacks Fork is Highway 150 between Kamas, Utah and Evanston, Wyoming, which is paved road. About 6 miles south of the Wyoming border or 16.5 miles north of Mirror Lake, a graveled road heads off to the East. This is the North Slope Road. The Blacks Fork Commissary is approximately 19-20 miles from Highway 150. Farther on east along the North Slope Road are other cabins scattered here and there.

### MILL CITY - GOLD HILL

Mill City is another logging camp just off Highway 150 between Kamas, Utah and Evanston, Wyoming.

According to "Utah Ghost Towns" by Stephen L. Carr, in 1872-73, the Hilliard Flume and Lumber Company built and operated a large V-shaped flume from Gold Hill to Hilliard, a busy town on the Union Pacific Railroad. The flume carried logs for use as ties, mine timbers and charcoal kiln fuel for the 32 kilns at Hilliard.

Mill City, a moderate size town for approximately 500 workers, was built-up around the sawmill at the head of the flume during the 1880's. The dirt road to Gold Hill and Mill City is 11.5 miles south of the Wyoming border or about 11 miles north of Mirror Lake.

There is good fishing in most of the streams and lakes using a fly or nymphs, such as the rockrollers, found under rocks in the streams.

King's Peak, which is the highest point in Utah is nearby at 13,422 feet.

Woodcutting permits for those who want to combine a little work with their pleasure, are available at the Bear River Ranger Station, just south of the North Slope Road on Highway 150.

The nights are cool and a rain storm can catch you by surprise. Take warm clothing with you.



## = REMINISCENCES OF A TOKEN DESIGNER =

By R. Harry Griesemer, AVA #1915

In 1936 at the age of 19 I began employment with the Johnson Fare Box Company, located at 4619 Ravenswood Avenue, Chicago. My first job was making blue prints in a carbon arc machine and developing the print in potassium chromate solution, then a water rinse, and hanging them up to dry.

When I had free time the Chief Draftsman would let me make changes or corrections on ink production drawings and later instructed me on preparing token designs to be submitted to a transit company for their approval. Sometimes a transit company had a design or emblem they wished to have appear on their token. If the transit company had no design it was up to the draftsman to create one. This was not too difficult because the bus with two half-moon perforations was a standard design most often submitted.

When transit companies had registering fare boxes it was necessary for them to order their tokens from the Johnson Fare Box Company. The reason for this was that some token designs could cause misregistrations. It would be the responsibility of Johnson Fare Box to submit a token design that would cause no registration problems. Upon receiving a customer's approval of the token design the tokens would then be ordered from the Meyer & Wenthe Company in Chicago.

In order to clear up any misunderstanding, the Johnson Fare Box Company had in excess of 90% of all the registering fare box business. Hence most of the tokens to be used in registering fare boxes were ordered from the Johnson Fare Box Company. If a transit company used non-registering fare boxes, referred to as lock boxes, it made no difference how the token was designed. It could be round or square and have any type perforations.

I held many positions, the last being General Sales Manager of Johnson Fare Box. I left this position to accept a management position with another company also part of the Bowser Group.

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## = THOSE PHONY "OLD WEST" TOKENS =



The Editor still occasionally receives inquiries from excited collectors who have purchased one of those phony fantasy tokens which pretend to be transportation tokens from the days of the Wild West. They are strictly phonies, vintage 1960's. There are about 20 varieties of them, and they come in zinc and brass mostly, and all shapes and sizes, with various cut-outs. Most, but not all, have "L.A. Stamp" on the token. I have put photos of some of them (all have blank reverses) above, exact size, just to give you some idea of what they look like. They all have the same general appearance.



Mr R.R. Tip Tippy is a well known member of the National Scrip Collectors Association and writes for their newsletter. The following are some of his past articles:

## COAL MINE SCRIP TOKENS



### POCAHONTAS FLICKER

Perhaps you or your readers can identify the value and history of this Pocahontas token. I thank you for your time and effort.

Richard Green

Hamilton Square, New Jersey

Richard,

Our research indicates this one-cent "coal token" was made for the Vera Pocahontas Fuel Company of Landgraff, West Virginia, by the Osborne Register Company in Cincinnati, Ohio. The token probably dates somewhere between 1924, when the Osborne Company first began using their trademark ORCO, and the early 1940s, when these tokens were generally constructed from a fiber material instead of metal.

Although relatively new, with most dating after the turn of the century, coal tokens are nonetheless quite valuable due to their distinctive history. In some mining camps, especially the isolated ones in the back woods where it was impossible to obtain a steady flow of U.S. currency, this was about the only kind of money in existence. When payday came around, the laborers were compensated for the work they'd already performed with these tokens, which could then be exchanged at the company store.

Reprint from Treasure Found.

## Coal Scrip Once Miners' Credit

R.R.TIPPY

Webster defines the word HOBBY as a subject that a person constantly talks about or returns to; something that a person likes to do or study in his spare time; or a favorite pastime or avocation. Look as hard as you will, you will not find where Webster defines the word SCRIPTOR. Hopefully, some day the dictionary will define the word "scriptor" as a person who collects scrip and falls in one or more of the categories above.

What is scrip and how was it used? Some people have the mis-conception that scrip is only paper and perhaps associate it with the depression years. Scrip may be paper or metal and actually metal tokens are more prominent; in fact, some avid collectors do not even collect the paper variety.

Metal tokens were referred to by different names that may have been peculiar to a particular geographical region. For example, in some areas they were referred to as "flickers", coal field money, light weight, doo lolly, etc., but the most common name is scrip. In this article the word scrip is referring only to the metal token that was used by the coal miner.

Commissary checks or scrip are, in essence, credit tokens and fundamentally were used as follows: An employee of the coal company who desired credit at the Company Store could request issue of scrip against work performed or work to be performed. The scrip so issued would be charged against the employee's payroll account, and its face value would be deducted from the amount due him for work performed on the following pay day. The scrip would then be spent at the commissary for merchandise.

This medium of exchange attained a certain amount of general circulation in the immediate neighborhood of the commissary, since it could be redeemed, in merchandise, upon presentation at the commissary by any bearer. For example, a miner in immediate need of cash might draw scrip at the mine office in face value of say \$10, and subsequently sell to a third party for cash at a negotiated discount; or he might use to barter for goods or property with the local merchants, fellow employee, etc.

The use of scrip has been discontinued by practically all coal mining companies. Its demise depends upon the geographical areas, for example, in the midwest the period was in the 1920s or perhaps early 1930s, whereas in the Appalachian area states it made its exit in the mid-forties and up to the very early 1950s.

The use of scrip has been attacked from many sides. It may be remembered that Eleanor Roosevelt, during her humanitarian crusades, attacked the use of scrip as an evil thing. The Treasury Department has always considered it a thorn in its side and the United Mine Workers Union opposed its promiscuous use.

### Scrip History

The private use of scrip and token money probably came to this land with the White man. The use of coal scrip was initiated for a number of reasons including the remoteness of the coal operator with few alternatives.

First, it was necessary to run a spur railroad line, which particularly in the mountainous areas, was the only method of transportation to and from the coal camp. Since there was no housing it was necessary for the coal company to build housing. There was no local store and thus the birth of the Commissary or the Company Store, in order that the miner and his family could obtain the necessities of life.

Therefore, it may be said that the coal company got into the store business out of necessity; however, it did not take them long to recognize a good thing. Almost without exception, the commissary carried the very best brands of merchandise and charged accordingly - yes, their prices were normally very high.

NAME:                   ELMER'S PLACE.                   .....Park City Utah

DESCRIPTION of token in collection.

OBVERSE: ELMER'S PLACE      PARK CITY UTAH. A \_ \_ \_ appears in the center.  
Comma appears after letter R'      Three(3) small dots(...) appear above UTAH  
A beaded border is found.

REVERSE:.....GOOD FOR 5¢ IN TRADE...Beaded border.Token is 21MM in size,  
and of German Silver.



REFERENCE: Park City Treasurer Receipt & Disbursement Book. (from 1924 to 1936)

Merchant & Soft Drink Parlor license issued to ELMER LEE, on the following dates:  
Cost being \$17.50 per quarter.....June 26, 1931....October 1931....January 1932.....  
March 1932....June 1932....September 1932....December 1932...April 1933...June 1933.  
September 1933....January 1934=\$25.00.....November 1934=\$5.00.

REFERENCE: Park City Recorder Book #9 (from 1930 to 1936)

A merchant license issued to Elmer Lee, on April 6, 1933. On January 4, 1934 license  
to Elmer C. Lee....453 Main Street % Elmers Place.

REFERENCE: Park City Telephone Directory (have zerox copy on file)

ELMER'S PLACE.....Phone 3....for years of 1933 and 1934.

REFERENCE: Park City Municipal Water Works: (Bill & Collection Register)

In 1933 and 1934; the Sutton Estate is listed as the owner of the building located  
at 453 Main Street. The tenant for years of 1933 is listed as Elmer Lee % ELMERS PLACE.  
In 1935-1936 the Sutton Estate is listed as the owner, with Elmer Lee % ELMERS PLACE  
at 453 Main Street. In 1937, 453 Main Street is listed as vacant. In 1939-1940,  
listed as vacant, and in 1941-1942 the building is listed as vacant.

NOTE: This place of business would have been located one door (north) below the  
Windsor Billiards building. And also one door (south) of THE CLUB.

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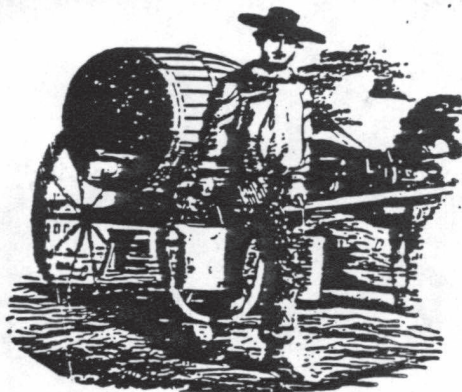
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MEMBER LM-ANA UNS NUTS OCC. ITHA ATCO TAMS SHCC

Buy, Sell, Trade Tokens - No  
Reasonable Offer Refused

## WWI SERVICE MEDALS

I collect World War I Service Medals issued by states, counties, cities, and towns. Particularly I want those issued in Utah such as Fountain Green, Park City, Provo, Trenton, and Washington County. Contact Lou Small, Box 19262U, Jacksonville, Florida, 32245



SEPTEMBER 1&2, 1990

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Show Information:  
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